

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03024 070944Z

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ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W

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O 070820Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9423

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3024

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM BROWN

E.O.11652: XGDS-2

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, US, PLO

SUBJ: HIGH-RANKING PLO OFFICIAL'S REMARKS ON AMBASSADOR BROWN

1. EMBOFF HAS RECEIVED REPORT, WHICH HE CONVINCED ACCURATELY REPLAYED TO US, OF REMARKS MADE BY SHAFIQ AL HOUT, DIRECTOR OF PLO OFFICE IN BEIRUT AND AN ARAFAT LOYALIST. SOURCE, WHO HAS KNOWN AL HOUT FOR MANY YEARS, WAS PRESENT APRIL 6 WHEN COMMENTS WERE MADE PRIVATELY.

2. HOUT STATED THAT HE AND OTHER PLO OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVING GOOD REPORTS FROM AMERICAN JOURNALISTS AND OTHERS RE ME AND MY "MISSION". "MODERATE" PALESTINIANS, THEREFORE, INCLINED TO BELIEVE I AM NOT REPEAT NOT "HOSTILE" TO THEM AND MAY EVEN BE WELL DISPOSED TOWARD PLO. HOUT EXPRESSED HOPE THAT I MIGHT MEET ARAFAT TO RECEIVE PALESTINIAN VIEWS FIRST-HAND. HE WENT SO FAR IN STRESSING PLO DESIRE FOR POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN LEBANON AS TO ASSERT THAT I "REPRESENT THE ONLY WAY OUT NOW" SINCE I AM THE ONLY INDIVIDUAL ON THE SCENE WHO CAN FUNCTION AS AN "IMPARTIAL MEDIATOR" WITH INFLUENCE ON ALL SIDES.

3. I PASS THIS ALONG FOR YOUR INFORMATION AS FURTHER INDICATION OF THE TANGLED SKEINS WITH WHICH WE ARE DEALING HERE. IT MIGHT BE WORTH A FOOTNOTE, WHEN THE

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HISTORY OF THIS PROBLEM IS FINALLY RECORDED, THAT AT

ONE MOMENT I STOOD ON THE BRINK OF BECOMING "BROWN
OF PALESTINE".
BROWN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL OPINION, PALESTINIANS, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, CAT-C, POLITICAL LEADERS, AMBASSADORS, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT03024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X2
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 2
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760489/aaaacyel.tel
Line Count: 64
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NODS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <15 OCT 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: LOCK1
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HIGH-RANKING PLO OFFICIAL'S REMARKS ON AMBASSADOR BROWN
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, US, PLO, (BROWN, L DEAN), (ARAFAT, YASSER), (AL-HOUT, SHAFIQ)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006